

Application No.: 09/868978

Docket No.: 08577-00033-US

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

In the specification please amend the paragraph at page 4, line 35 as follows:

Alternatively, the basic polymer may be shaped into the membrane form according to the method as described in Japanese Patent Appln. Hei 10-125560, filed May 8, 1998: entitled "Method for Producing Polyelectrolyte Membranes and Fuel Cells." Specifically, a liquid medium containing not less than 1% by weight of a basic polymer and a solvent having a boiling point or an azeotropic point of from 60°C to 220°C is poured into a cylinder the inner circumference of which has a cylindrical configuration; next, the cylinder is rotated. At that point, the solvent is allowed to evaporate through centrifugation by the rotation; concurrently, a polyelectrolyte membrane having a cylindrical form of almost uniform thickness is formed on the inner circumference of the cylinder. Thereafter, the polyelectrolyte membrane having a cylindrical form is cut out to yield a polyelectrolyte membrane having a film form. This method permits the basic polymer to shape into a uniform matrix within its polyelectrolyte membrane. The disclosure of Japanese Patent Appln. Hei 10-125560 is incorporated into the present specification by reference. Japanese Patent Appln. Hei 10-125560 is the priority document of U.S. 6,352,742.